

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

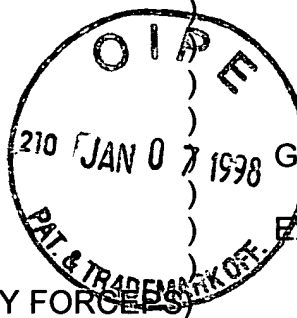
In re Application of:

Thomas O. BALES et al.

Serial No.: 08/928,453

Filed: September 12, 1997

For: RADIAL JAW BIOPSY FORCEPS



Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. To the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

The listed documents were either cited by the Examiner or Applicants in a prior application, serial no. 08/458,215, filing date June 2, 1995, (now U.S. Patent No. 5,666,965) upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120, or are discussed in the Background of the Invention section of the present application. Copies of the documents are enclosed. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

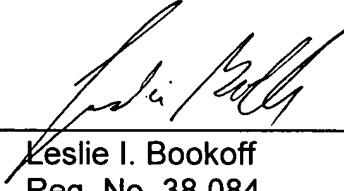
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: _____


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Date: January 7, 1998

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